

LAST EDITION.

FRIDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, DECEMBER 4, 1903.

FRIDAY EVENING.

THREE CENTS.

GOES UP IN SMOKE

H. D. Lee Wholesale House at
Salina Destroyed.

Largest Establishment of the
Kind in Kansas.

LOSS IS VERY LARGE.

Estimated That It Will Be
Over \$600,000.

Buildings Were Over a Block in
Length.

CITY WAS HELPLESS.

Volunteer Fire Department Un-
able to Cope With Flames.

Citizens Work Heroically to
Prevent Spread of Fire.

Salina, Kan., Dec. 4.—The H. D. Lee Mercantile company building, four stories high and a block long, the largest wholesale establishment in Kansas, took fire at noon today, and at this hour, 1:30, is enveloped in flames from top to bottom. The fire will without much doubt spread to the building of the H. D. Lee Wholesale Hardware company, which is less than 25 feet distant. The loss will probably exceed \$600,000 but the insurance is heavy.

Salina's volunteer fire department is utterly unable to combat the flames with any success.

At this time the origin of the fire is unknown. The whole town is watching the fire. It is not believed that the conflagration will spread outside of the Lee buildings, as they are somewhat isolated. There is a strong wind, and people are at work trying to protect the roofs of buildings from flying fire brands.

The H. D. Lee Mercantile company deals exclusively in groceries. It is capitalized for \$450,000. Last year the hardware department was organized with \$100,000 capital. It is estimated that the stock carried by the two establishments was worth at least \$500,000. The buildings were probably worth \$100,000 more.

The big buildings are situated at the corner of Santa Fe avenue and Elm streets. The grocery department was in a building a block long, and built up solid from the street back to the alley. The hardware department was three stories high, and half as long as the grocery department.

H. D. Lee came to Salina in 1891, and was successful in his business. He brought with him some able grocery managers, and the firm prospered from the start. The building was reported to be destroyed and it now has a trade larger than any similar establishment in the state, it is claimed. Mr. Lee owns a large majority of the stock of the concern, and is himself in active control of the business, though he spends considerable time in New York. He is president of the Farmers' National bank, of Salina, president of the Lee-Warren Milling company, and is interested in many other big enterprises. For some time he was chairman of the executive committee of the National Wholesale Grocers' association. He was president of the Salina Cold Storage company, which was entirely consumed by fire.

The fact that the big wholesale grocery and hardware establishments were protected by insurance will insure the reconstruction of the business, probably on a larger scale than before.

Salina, Kan., Dec. 4.—At 2:15 this afternoon, it is believed that the fire is under control. The hardware department of the Lee-Warren Milling company was saved, but the fire department is still fighting hard at this point. The grocery department is entirely gone.

The fire started on the second floor of the building in the paper bag department. The way in which it originated is still a mystery.

Insurance on the establishment was \$350,000. The loss may not exceed \$400,000. About 130 employees at the store will be thrown out of employment.

It is understood that the store will be at once rebuilt.

Several barns in the vicinity of the store are in flames, and there is danger that the fire will spread to other small buildings near by. No dwellings have caught so far.

All the telephone wires from the east, which pass by the building, are down, and the city is cut off from telegraphic communication with Topeka. This message is being sent out by telephone, which is the only means of communication left.

ABILENE HELPS.

Abilene, Kas., Dec. 4.—The Abilene fire department has been sent to Salina by special train to help fight the fire which is destroying the H. D. Lee Mercantile company buildings and threatening the destruction of the rest of the city. Salina is 22 miles from this place.

BRIBE OF \$25,000

Offered Chicago Jailor by Car
Barn Bandit.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—One of the car barn bandits, Peter Neddermeier, today attempted to bribe Patrick Donnelly, one of the guards at the county jail, to allow him to escape, promising him \$25,000. Donnelly asked him where he would get the money and received the answer, "I'll get it all right today received a contribution of \$5,000 from the Chicago City Railway company to aid the widows of the policemen who lost their lives in the pursuit of the bandits."

Was Partner of Justice Ellis.

Frank T. Burnham, of Beloit, who was formerly the law partner of the late Justice A. H. Ellis, has formed a new partnership with George W. Doshell of Abilene, Iowa, and they will practice at Beloit under the firm name of Burnham & Doshell. Mr. Burnham was in Topeka last night in the interest of Clark A. Smith's candidacy for supreme court justice.

BAIL FIXED AT \$15,000.

Imprisoned Miners Have a Chance to
Secure Freedom.

Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 4.—C. G. Kennison, Sherman, Pa., and J. C. Davis, the executive committee of the Western Federation of Miners for this district, against whom informations were filed yesterday in the federal court charging them with murder and conspiracy to murder, are now confined in the county jail but can obtain their freedom on furnishing bonds for \$15,000 each, the sum at which bail was fixed by Judge Seeds. The accused men say that they court the fullest investigation of their conduct during the strike and that the charges against them have been trumped up to get them out of the way.

MARTIAL LAW.

Writ of Habeas Corpus Sus-
pended at Cripple Creek.

Governor Declares Gold Camp
in State of Insurrection.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 4.—Governor Peabody at noon today issued a proclamation declaring Cripple Creek under martial law, and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. He declares that the gold camp is in a state of insurrection and rebellion and that the civil authorities are powerless.

In support of his action the governor cites the blowing up of the portion of the chief vindicator mine and other acts of lawlessness and he declares that it is impossible to control the turbulence of the camp by ordinary peaceable methods.

The proclamation does not state in so many words that martial law has been declared and that the writ of habeas corpus has been suspended, but officials at the state house say that both these things are intended. The military will now deal with all alleged offenders and try to punish them.

MAIL POUCH RAKE-OFF.

Trial of Upton and McGregor
Continued.

Baltimore, Dec. 4.—In the trial today of Columbus Ellsworth Upton and Thos. W. McGregor, on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government on contracts with Louis A. Goetz, an accountant in the office of McGregor in the free delivery bureau at Washington, identified certain carbon copies of letters sent to Baltimore merchant who furnished pouches on an agreement to pay Upton and McGregor a rake off. On cross examination Goetz said that Upton and McGregor were known to him as men of good character and honest and upright men. William F. Broening, secretary of Congress, who testified that he wrote the letter which Mr. Wachter signed recommending Smith to the department and that the letter was written at the request of Upton.

Soon thereafter, H. H. Hassenburg, receiving clerk in McGregor's office, testified that he had received the boxes of pouches shipped by Smith. Miss Emma H. Conner and Robert A. Pendleton, attorneys in the office of McGregor, identified certain letters that had been written to Smith. James A. Dickery, file clerk in McGregor's office, identified the carbon copies of letters sent to Smith. Herbert W. Anderson, a clerk in charge of the correspondence in McGregor's office, also identified certain letters from McGregor's office which were written to Smith.

ON THE ROCKS.

British Cruiser Flora Likely to
Be a Total Wreck.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 4.—A special to the Times from Victoria says: "The British cruiser Flora, which was wrecked on the coast of British Columbia, is now lying on her side on the rocks. The force of the strain forced the after part of the ship to break in two, and the sea rushed in with such force in the after part, which was under the water, that the ship sank. The after part of the cruiser sank below the surface."

There was 10 feet of water above the after deck, the top of her jacketstiff being just visible. The crew and officers were rescued, but the ship was a total wreck. The bow of the cruiser is high and dry, well upon the rocks, and the sea is breaking over the stern. The ship is a total wreck. The bow of the cruiser is high and dry, well upon the rocks, and the sea is breaking over the stern. The ship is a total wreck.

The cruiser shipped 600 tons of coal at the pier at Union and was driven on the rocks by a heavy sea. The bow of the cruiser is high and dry, well upon the rocks, and the sea is breaking over the stern. The ship is a total wreck. The bow of the cruiser is high and dry, well upon the rocks, and the sea is breaking over the stern. The ship is a total wreck.

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FIVE MINUTE SESSION.

The House Swears in Two New
Members.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The house was in session but five minutes today. Mr. Hunter (N. Y.) and Mr. Nevin (O.) were sworn in as members. Adjourned.

Representative Livermash introduced a joint resolution today defining "the intention of the United States concerning the Panama Canal." It declares that the United States claims on the part of the United States any intention to impair Colombian sovereignty or to support the republic of Panama or to interfere with the canal.

Long Horns Barred.

Range Cattlemen Protest
Against World's Fair Rules.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—F. D. Coburn, chief of the live stock department of the Louisiana exposition at St. Louis has been in consultation here with a committee of western range cattle men regarding the rules for the admission of cattle exhibits. The committee asserted that if the present rules are enforced the cattle from the ranges of the west and south will be barred, as the rules specify that no animal is admissible unless it has a pedigree at least on one side that exhibits must be individual, and broken to the halter and not more than two in one class.

SPRINGER DEAD.

Former Congressman Falls a
Victim to Pneumonia.

Which He Contracted on a Re-
cent Visit to Chicago.

20 YEARS IN CONGRESS.

Chairman of Ways and Means
Committee and Party Leader.

Occupied Various Positions on
the Federal Bench.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Former Representative William Springer of Illinois, a Democratic leader conspicuous in the house of representatives during the Forty-fourth to the Fifty-third congress inclusive and organized manager of the ways and means committee of the house, died at his residence in this city today, aged 64 years. His death was due to pneumonia contracted in Chicago Thanksgiving day. He was attending a dinner there and was suddenly taken with a violent chill. He left Chicago and arrived here last Sunday afternoon very ill. His family physician, Dr. J. B. Gregg Curtis, was immediately summoned, but Mr. Springer grew steadily worse. His condition became critical yesterday and a radical change for the worse occurred last night. He sank rapidly and passed away at 3:25 this morning.

His wife and son, Chaplain R. Springer, U. S. A., who has been stationed at Fort Washington but who was summoned home when his father's condition became serious, were at the bedside during the distinguished member's dying hour. Mr. Springer has been a resident of this city during the past few years following his retirement from congress and the following the practice of law here and at Illinois college at Jacksonville, Ill. He was a graduate of the Indiana state university in 1878, and was admitted to the bar in the following year. From 1878 to 1881 he was a newspaper correspondent. In 1889 he was married to Miss Rebecca Ruter. In 1872 Springer was elected to the Illinois legislature and served two terms. He was elected to congress in 1890 and served for 20 years. He was chairman of the ways and means committee, banking and currency and other committees. He was a member of the Democratic side of the house. 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